Executive Proclamation
State of South Dakota
Office of the Governor

Whereas, 131 years ago in 1872, J. Sterling Morton proposed that a special day be set aside for the planting of trees and recognition of the many benefits they provide; and,

Whereas, This holiday, called Arbor Day, is now observed throughout the nation and world; and,

Whereas, Trees can reduce the erosion of our precious topsoil by wind and water, reduce heating and cooling costs, moderate temperature, clean the air, and produce oxygen; and,

Whereas, Trees are a renewable resource giving us paper, wood for our homes, fuel for our fires, and countless other wood products; and,

Whereas, Trees in our communities increase property values, enhance the economic vitality of business areas, and add beauty and variety to the environment; and,

Whereas, The severe winter of 2000-2001 demonstrated the need for more living snow fences and windbreaks to protect our livestock, roadways, farmsteads, communities, and wildlife from the devastating effects of blowing and drifting snow and harsh winter winds; and,

Whereas, Trees, wherever they are planted, are a source of joy and spiritual renewal; and,

Whereas, 56 years ago, in 1947, the South Dakota State Legislature established the last Friday in April as our state's official Arbor Day:

Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim Friday, April 25, 2003, and the week of April 20 – 26, 2003, as

ARBOR DAY & ARBOR WEEK

in South Dakota, and urge all citizens to celebrate Arbor Day and to support efforts to protect our trees and woodlands, and I also urge all citizens to plant trees to gladden the hearts and promote the well being of this and future generations.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Twenty-sixth Day of March in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Three.

M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:

Chris Nelson, Secretary of State